

Message Text

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SUBJ: ALBANIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

REF: A. BELGRADE 902, B. BELGRADE 807

1. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT PRESS SPOKESMAN MIRKO KALEZIC TOOK NOTE OF TENSIONS IN ALBANIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS AT BRIEFING FEB 12. KALEZIC SAID THAT "INDIVIDUAL CRUDE ATTACKS BY ALBANIA'S PUBLIC INFORMATION MEDIA ON YUGOSLAVIA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY AND ITS INTERNAL ORDER ARE IN CONTRADICTION WITH EARLIER STATEMENTS OF ALBANIA'S HIGHEST OFFICIALS ABOUT COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA. WE HOPE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THIS WILL NOT INFLUENCE THE MAINTENANCE AND FURTHERING OF GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION". WHEN ASKED ABOUT RECENT PRISTINA TRIALS OF ALBANIAN IRREDENTISTS, KALEZIC REPLIED THAT THIS MATTER WAS A "PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIR OF YUGOSLAVIA" AND COULD NOT BE CONNECTED WITH YUGOSLAV-ALBANIAN RELATIONS.

2. AFP REPORT CARRIED IN REF TANJUG FEB 13 SAYS THAT ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN PASSING
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OUT REPRINTS OF RECENT ARTICLES IN "ZERI I POPULLIT" WHICH PRAISE STALIN, CONDEMN REVISIONISM, CRITICIZE

THOSE WHO WOULD LABEL CERTAIN NATIONALITIES "IRREDENTISTS" OR "STALINIST DOGMATISTS" AND SWEAR THAT ALBANIA WILL DEFEND ITS ENTIRE PEOPLE, "ESPECIALLY SUPPRESSED OR PERSECUTED MINORITIES".

3. COMMENT: YUGOSLAVS FIND THEMSELVES IN A PARADOXICAL SITUATION. AFTER TRUMPETING SLOVENE RIGHTS IN AUSTRIA AND MACEDONIAN RIGHTS IN BULGARIA, THEY NOW FIND THAT THE ALBANIANS ARE STICKING UP FOR THEIR LARGE MINORITY JUST ACROSS THE BORDER IN KOSOVO. IF THE YUGOSLAVS ARGUE THAT ALBANIANS ARE INTERFERING IN YUGOSLAV INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY CRYING "REPRESSION" IN KOSOVO, THEN THEY UNDERMINE THEIR OWN CASE AGAINST AUSTRIA AND BULGARIA. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY TRY TO PUSH THEIR MINORITY RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, THEY UNDERMINE THEIR POSITION VIS-A-VIS ALBANIA. LOGICALLY, THE YUGOSLAVS MIGHT PREFER TO ADOPT THE FORMER COURSE, BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE KOSOVO MINORITY PROBLEM, BUT THEY ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO VIGOROUS CAMPAIGNS FOR SLOVENE AND MACEDONIAN RIGHTS. SO NOW, WHEN FACED WITH ALBANIAN REMONSTRATIONS, ALL THE YUGOSLAVS CAN DO IS MUMBLE PLATITUDES AND HOPE THE ALBANIANS WILL CLAM UP.

4. THE UPSHOT IS THAT YUGOSLAV-ALBANIAN RELATIONS ARE DETERIORATING. SWEITZER

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